



TRANSCRIPT REPORT

Date: April 12, 2005

Agenda item No: 5

Council Action Date: April 22, 2005

To: CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD
From: SANDRA MUÑOZ, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Subject: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 25, 2005.

George G. Sinopoli
Chairman



California Veterans Board

Board Minutes #675



Chairman George Sinopoli



Board Members:

Leo Burke, Vice Chairman
Dr. Vernon Chong

Col. James C. Crump Jr. (ret)
William D. Jackson

Advisory Member
Howell Jackson, Attorney

FEBRUARY 25, 2005

The California Veterans Board met in regular session in the City of Clovis in the Veterans Memorial Hall, 453 Hughes Street, Clovis, at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Board Members George G. Sinopoli Chairman, Leo P. Burke Vice-Chairman, James C. Crump Jr. Member, Dr. Vernon Chong Member, Judy Gaze Member.

Absent: William D. Jackson

Chairman Sinopoli presided.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CDVA)

Present: Secretary Thomas Johnson, Deputy Secretary Robert Glazier.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOMING REMARKS

Robert A. Sleppy, Environmental Services Section Chief Department of General Services discussed his role in the GLAVC project and the land transfer site of Fresno and Redding to the state of California. Land transfer is near completion. Before land transfer is complete two events must occur.

1. Complete Title Work
2. Complete Environmental Study

Estimated delivery date to State Public Works Board May 2005 or latest June 2005.

Greater Los Angeles Ventura County (GLAVC) construction bid estimated deadline to meet the Grant is March 2007 federal funding will be available for the next two veterans homes. Veterans Cemetery at Redding under construction. DGS is a service provider. CDVA get authority and approval to move forward. All decisions have been made, funding is available, and land issue meetings with USDVA and CDVA are still forthcoming.

Board Member Crump spoke: would President Bush Budget impact the funding for the Veterans Homes?

CDVA Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke: two proposals in the Presidents budget. One-year moratorium on the state grant program. Unclear how those in the prior moratorium Queue will fall into the following FY category. GLAVC project is number one priority status.

Board Member James Crump spoke; requested VFW and American Legion Legislative Liaison in Washington DC to track this issue very closely.

Bruce Thiesen spoke: regarding the GLAVC time-line was at one time 2005, then 2006 and present 2007.

Robert Sleppy spoke: check in point of July 2006. Not sure why it was deferred back one year, possibly due to lack of funding. Currently the state has stepped up with a definite amount of additional funding.

Bruce Thiesen spoke: questioned if West Los Angeles delays due to kitchen facility problems or the veteran home room designs?

Robert Sleppy spoke: original proposed state budget act was too low to build 400 beds. Annex I project to be completed by 2006 the first in California dedicated for Alzheimer and Dementia care.

Dr. Vernon Chong spoke: asked why there has not been an Alzheimer and Dementia Unit in a California Veterans Homes?

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke: over the last few years it has evolved as needed.

Bruce Thiesen spoke: once a veteran moves into a veteran's home and due to health related issues a higher level of care is needed that veteran is cared for at the home for the remaining of his/her life.

Robert Glazier spoke: CDVA is breaking ground compared to other State Veterans Homes.

Charlie Waters spoke: welcomed the Board and the California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary. AB 1725 was discussed regarding design-build to help Redding and Fresno move faster and cheaper. Requested CDVA to inform veterans of upcoming legislation.

Robert Glazier spoke: explained the benefit of AB 1725. No delays on building Fresno and

Redding Veterans Homes. News for Veterans e-mailed newsletter available. CDVA staff available anytime for questions/concerns

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke: AB 1725 could time table to its original plan.

Board member Crump spoke: requested the Veteran Organizations to support CDVA Secretary with regards to AB 1725.

Robert Glazier spoke: two veterans share a room and no design is available. Chula Vista 4 to one bathroom. West Los Angeles design different from Chula Vista.

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke: pre-existing plans is another option.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

There was no Closed Session.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

1. MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the minutes of the regular meetings of December 3, 2004.

Debate was held:

Board member Crump moved to approve the recommendation. Board member Gaze amended proposed recommendation as follows: Strike out future meeting date statement “Clovis February 2005” replace with “to be determined”, Strike out “October’ in Palo Alto” replace with “February”. Board member Burke seconded. Vote was as follows:

AYES: Board members Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze, and Sinopoli.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Board member Jackson

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

CHAIRMAN SINOPOLI REPORT

“Members of the Board, Mr. Secretary, Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen. You may recall that on December 21st, we held a special teleconference meeting at the request of Secretary Johnson to discuss a number of items on an agenda, which he provided. In my opening statement, I said that it was not the board’s intent at that time to deliberate or take action on those items, but rather simply to hear what the Secretary had to say. I stated further that the board would need

time to consider and review the items more thoroughly.

Later, I appointed Vice Chairman Burke and Member Crump to a budget and review committee to do just that. We have completed our review and, as you can see from the “You may recall that on December 21st, we held a special teleconference meeting at the request of Secretary Johnson to discuss a number of items on an agenda which he provided. In my opening statement, I said that it was not the board’s intent at that time to deliberate or take action on those items, but rather simply to hear what the Secretary had to say. I stated further that the board would need time to consider and review the items more thoroughly.

Later, I appointed vice chairman Burke and member crump to a budget and review committee to do just that. We have completed our review and, as you can see from the “new business: part of today’s agenda, we will now revisit those items. With the committee’s help and your input, it is the board’s intent today to deliberate and take such action, as the board deems proper on each of the items. We’ll take them one at a time – the committee will report on each item and make its recommendation on that item in the form of a motion. After discussion and public comment, the board will vote on the motion.

NEW BUSINESS CONSENT ITEMS

Audience invited to make 3 minutes comments on each item presented

- 2. Should the Board be made an advisory body instead of a policy-making body? If so, how would this affect the hearing of appeals by veterans from decisions of the Department of Veterans Affairs?**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board vote NO on the primary question, and adopt a motion to oppose any legislation which would change it from a policy-making body to an advisory body, or which would reduce its existing authorities in any other way.

Debate was held:

Charlie Waters, Jack Climer and Tom Gentile spoke.

Board member Crump moved to approve the recommendation. Board member Burke seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board members Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze, and Sinopoli.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Board member Jackson

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

3. **If the Board retains its appellant function, should the Board delegate the holding of hearings on appeals by veterans from decisions of the Department of Veterans Affairs to an undersecretary or deputy secretary of the Department where permitted by law?**

RECOMMENDATION

The Board vote NO on the question, and adopt a motion to oppose any legislative or other efforts to require it to delegate the holding of hearings on appeals to an officer of the Department.

Debate was held:

Board Member Gaze spoke: agrees to vote No. Delegate some appeals to the CDVA that pertain to a higher level of care issues of the Veterans Homes.

Board Member Chong spoke: agrees with Board member Gaze that opinion based on expertise and different professional medical opinions.

Howell Jackson spoke: based on the Board responsibility and authority to decide on appeals. Board is acting in a quasi-judicial capacity. Acting as an administrative judicatory body. Courts make decisions everyday on matters, which Judges have, no expertise. Based on evidence that is induced at the hearing. Veterans have right to an Appeal conducted by the Board as stated in the law.

Board member Crump spoke: would not make a careful decision based on clearly stated evidence.

Bruce Thiesen spoke; concur with motion.

Howell Jackson spoke: the motion as stated would not change the law, Board will still have the option to delegate to the deputy secretary.

Board member Crump moved to approve the recommendation. Board member Burke seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze and Sinopoli.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Board member Jackson.

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

4. **Should the Board have its own special counsel position to provide legal advice to the Board and to assist the Board in conducting hearings on appeals?**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board vote YES on the question, and adopt a motion directing the Secretary to establish a special counsel position for the Board at a level, on a time-base, and with appropriate funding all as determined by the Board.

Debate was held
No public comments

Board member Crump moved to approve the recommendation. Board member Burke seconded. The vote was as follow:

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze and Sinopoli.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Board member Jackson.

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

- 5. Should the Board's Executive Officer position be eliminated, with the Secretary's Office performing the Executive Officer functions for the Board?**

RECOMMENDATION

The Board vote NO to item d on the Agenda.

No debate was held
No public comments

Board member Sinopoli postponed definitely to the question based on the Bagley Keene Act § 11126.

Board member Crump moved to approve the recommendation. Board member Burke seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze and Sinopoli.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Board member Jackson.

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

- 6. Should the Board hold quarterly meetings rather than bi-monthly or monthly meetings?**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board vote NO on the question, and adopt a motion to establish a general practice

of bi-monthly meetings, subject to adjustment from time to time according to policy and appellate hearing needs.

Debate was held
No public comment

Advisory Member Jackson spoke: **Point of Order:** Item #6 not stated on agenda but could be properly considered under Subject heading Other Matters item K.

Board member Crump moved to approve the recommendation. Board member Burke seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze and Sinopoli.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Board member Jackson.

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

- 7. Should the Board hold special meetings with the leaders of recognized veterans' organizations?**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board vote NO on the question, but adopt a motion to allocate by agenda at least one regular or special meeting each year to the leadership of recognized veterans' organizations.

Debate was held:

Charlie Waters Marine Corp League Spoke.

Board member Crump moved to approve the recommendation. Board member Burke seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze and Sinopoli.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Board member Jackson

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

- 8. Does the Board have authority to determine its own budget? What authority, if any, does the Secretary have over the Board's budget?**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board vote YES on the primary question, and adopt a motion to include a finding that the Secretary has no authority over the Board's budget.

Debate was held:

Chuck Parnell spoke.

John Lowe VFW adjutant spoke: regarding December 3, 2004 minutes farm & home budget supporting CDVA and CVB. To make sure that the Board will know if the Farm & Home is being depleted the board should know about it.

Howell Jackson spoke: responded to the program budgeting concept all programs are prorated by the share of cost of the administrative functions and in effect all programs pay for the cost in one way or other.

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke: Farm & Home should stand on it's own and does support certain services but are trying to reduce CalVet cost.

Deputy Secretary Robert Glazier spoke: indicate that Cal Vet should bear only Cal Vet programs and not other unrelated cost.

Howell Jackson responded program budget concept the program is suppose to bare its fair share of the administrative cost related to that program and that is determined by looking at what those relationships are.

Board member Crump spoke: Cal Vet Farm & Home funds Executive Officer position.

Howell Jackson spoke; indicated how the approximant 20 positions funded by farm & home came about. DOF declined general fund positions, F & H funded positions.

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke: indicated DOF is a control agency.

Charlie Waters spoke: could fund it self independently and asked John Lowe about a past law suit against CDVA.

John Lowe spoke: responded 1974 VFW filed a lawsuit against the State for Farm & Home depleting funds to support administrative cost.

Howell Jackson spoke: point in question to John Lowe law suit involving legislation requiring which required the department to fund a portion to the County Veteran Service Officers out of the F & H fund that is what the issue was.

Bruce Thiesen responded; to John Lowe statement the lawsuit was filed to fund a portion of the F&H to the County Veteran Service Officers. The Board acts on behalf on the Cal Vet Home Loan Program and the Veterans Home. The Board is funded by both the general fund and the F&H fund.

Mark spoke: works for CDVA in Fresno Cal Vet Office.

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke: reduced administrative cost 2 million, closed two offices. We got to keep going to reduce cost.

Mark responded: not helping veterans by closing offices.

Bruce Thiesen spoke: in response to Mark the office's closed were in part to the high cost of homes.

Charlie Waters spoke: if there will be money to support the board.

Chairman Sinopoli spoke: by cutting expenses from two day meeting to one day meeting.

Col Crump spoke: the budget was submitted for FY05/06. Budget committee will meet for upcoming budget and will work for what is best for all veterans. Will work with the Secretary.

Board member Crump moved to approve the recommendation. Board member Burke seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze and Sinopoli.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Board member Jackson

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

- 9. Should the Board's annual budget be reduced from \$155,400 to \$51,000, or reduced in any other amount?**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board vote NO on the question, and adopt a motion requiring its budget committee to develop appropriate and timely budget changes for the remainder of this fiscal year and for 2005-2006 to be submitted to the Secretary for separate statement in the Department's budget after approval by the Board.

Debate was held:

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke: that same amount indicated has been submitted. We try to indicate the dollars that are really needed. We need support for the Homes and other projects. We have a 973,000 out of the budget and any help would be appreciated.

Chairman Sinopoli spoke: Budget Committee needs to set down together with the Secretary together and discuss the budget.

Board Member Crump moved to approve the recommendation. Board member Burke

seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board Members Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze and Sinopoli

NOES: None

ABSENT: Board Member Jackson

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

10. BUDGETARY CHALLENGES REPORT

Secretary Thomas Johnson reported on federal budget per diem could be significantly reduced by the Federal Government for members of the Homes. 18.1 million, 1/3 of revenue could come off from Federal Budget. Veteran Organization could assist in getting together and indicate that this is not acceptable.

Chairman Sinopoli requested copies of report.

Board member Chong asked what the total amount nationally.

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke: federal level anticipate saving 293,000 million, California 18 million, most states anticipate 80% of their veterans are out side of category 1-4.

Bruce Thiesen spoke: all veteran organization concur that the president's is trying to balance budget on the back of veterans. Bruce and Leo are going to Washington D.C.

OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSENT

- 11. Should the general fund costs of handling and processing the estates of deceased members of the Veterans Homes be recovered from the estates which by law are required to be paid into the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Funds (formerly "Post Funds" now MWRF) at the Veterans Homes?**

RECOMMENDATION

Board member Crump recommends Postpone action on the question until the next meeting.

- 12. Should the fees and charges for members of the Veterans Homes be increased by indexing them to the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments?**

RECOMMENDATION

Board member Crump recommends Postpone action on the questions #11 & #12 until the next meeting, Board member Burke seconded. The vote was as follows.

No Debate held

No Public Comments

AYES: Board Members Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze and Sinopoli

NOES: None

ABSENT: Board Member Jackson

Board Member Chong Point of information requested Board Member Crump to discuss incorporate item #11 with Policy C-6.

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

13. Request for Proposal-Operational Services for Northern California Veterans Cemetery.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize CDVA to work with Shasta County to provide the other functions needed for the cemetery contract.

14. Request for proposal (RFP) 05SS0001 for food purchasing, preparation, and nutrition services at veterans homes in Barstow and Chula Vista contract.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize CDVA to bid for food services contract for veteran's homes in Barstow and Chula Vista.

Debate was held:

Howell Jackson spoke: no one reviewed the actual RFP itself. Amount proposed for Chula Vista is much higher than Barstow. A three year contract and is now being submitted.

Secretary Thomas Johnson gave a brief explanation on item #13. DOF directed CDVA to look for minimal person years. Find contracts in local agencies in Shasta area for other functions. Interagency agreement with Shasta County to provide other things using low risk prisoners to do the yard care, security by Sheriff office. Veterans Cemetery Administrator to come on board at the latest June. Food services contract; decide with another contract or existing contract (Morrison) must follow procedure.

Board Member Burke moved to approve both recommendations items #13 & #14. Board Member Crump seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board Members Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze and Sinopoli

NOES: None

ABSENT: Board Member Jackson

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

15. Policy B-10 Expanding Use of “Unrestricted Funds” in Cal-Vet Loan Program.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve revision of Policy B-10 “Unrestricted Funds” in Cal-Vet Loan Program. Board Member Chong recommends to Postpone Motion until next board meeting due to some of the terminology.

Debate was held:

Advisory Member Jackson recommend and advice the Board to obtain Bond Counsel or State Treasures office concurrence which would assure that funds are truly unrestricted and have some information about the sources of the Unrestricted Funds. There is a risk that some funds could be truly unrestricted. The risk is tax-exempt bonds cost less and the price for not complying with federal laws that restrict the uses and proceeds could be the department of treasury revoking the tax-exempt status of an entire issue of bonds.

Board Member Gaze spoke: unrestricted money has been used by CDVA. The purpose of the policy would clarify the use of unrestricted money for peacetime veterans under Section 980 of the Military & Veterans Code. Only source for concerned will preclude the board giving loans to veterans coming back from Iraq.

Board Member Crump read proposed policy B-10. Question do we need the “State Treasurer’s Office” stated in policy B-10?

Board Member Gaze spoke: State Treasurer does not own this money but instead Bond Counsel has the responsibility for making sure money is used correctly.

RECOMMENDATION

Board member Gaze motion be amended striking out “State Treasurer’s Office” from Policy B-10.

Debate was held:

Advisory Member Jackson spoke: on purpose adding of draft proposal was to enable the board to have reasonable assurance that the funds designated as unrestricted funds were truly unrestricted under the federal tax laws and bond counsel would render such a opinion and that the state treasurer’s office would concur with that opinion. The department issues two types of bonds. 1) General Obligation Veteran Bonds, secured by the full faith credit of the state of California. 2) Veteran Revenue Bonds not secured by the pledge of full faith credit of the state but pledged by the revenues from the loans made with the proceeds. They over all have an effect to the state’s credit rating and Wall Street.

Board member Gaze, that question could be asked that unrestricted money that is being lent to veterans currently.

Board member Chong, reason for postponing the motion was due to Farm & Home objected to Policy B-10. We decided to propose until we come to a resolution.

Secretary Thomas Johnson recommendation was to end with a footnote statement.

RECOMMENDATION

Board member Gaze proposed amending previous motion to strike out “State Treasurer’s Office” from Policy B-10.

Debate was held:

Bruce Thiesen spoke: unrestricted money is obligations to bond money to bonds that have been paid off. Concur with Bond Counsel.

Secretary Thomas Johnson, Bond Counsel is not a key issue but the cash flow analysis.

Advisory Member Jackson, Bond Counsel is very important due to complex federal laws. Tax-exempt bond cost less than non tax-exempt bonds, non-complying with federal laws that restrict uses could cause the department of treasury to revoke tax-exempt status, and it is a risk. My advice to the board is to be cautious.

Board member Gaze spoke: concerned with precluding young veterans returning from Iraq.

Advisory Member Jackson spoke; the board did what was requested except want bond counsel and state treasury concurrence.

Board Member Gaze spoke: only issue aware of state treasurer’s doesn't have a say in this.

Advisory Member Jackson spoke: disagrees that the state treasurer’s office has a say in everything concerning general obligation bonds.

Chairman Sinopoli motioned a 5 minute recess, Leo Burke leaving to Washington DC. Board member Leo Burke seconded.

RECOMMENDATION

Board member Gaze Motion prior motion be amended keeping “State Treasurer’s Office” after the words bond counsel and by adding “as appropriate”. Board member Crump seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board member Crump, Burke, Chong, Gaze and Sinopoli.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Board member Jackson

Chairman Sinopoli declared the motion carried.

16. Review Proposed Schedule of Meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve CVB schedule of 2005 location and dates of board meetings.

Debate was held:

Board member Crump proposed March meeting in Barstow.

Board member Chong spoke: reminded the board of voted on bi-monthly meetings.

Advisory member Jackson spoke: the motion adopted was subject to such adjustments that might be made necessary by policy and appellant meetings.

Board member Gaze spoke: a formal appeal has elected the board to meet near Chula Vista.

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke: the maximum number of meetings that CDVA can staff relative to our budget is about six per year.

Chairman Sinopoli spoke: would teleconference or videoconference be conducted for CDVA due to the budget constraints.

Secretary Thomas Johnson agreed.

Board member Crump proposed meeting at the Veterans Homes once a year and amending proposed locations as follows; Ventura, Barstow, San Francisco, Lancaster, Redding, West LA, San Diego, Monterey/Salinas, Yountville.

Board member Crump motioned to adopt proposed schedule of meeting locations for 2005 subject to bi-monthly meetings and meet at least once a year at the Veteran's Homes. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board members Crump, Chong, Gaze.

NOES: Board member Sinopoli

ABSENT: Board member Burke and Jackson

Chairman declared the motion carried.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS VETERAN'S HOMES

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke on behalf of Deputy Secretary William Parente.

Regarding the State Auditor Report Investigations on improper activities by state employees: July 2004 through December 2004 report #12005-1.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER 2004 AND JANUARY 2005 AND SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board member Chong nothing to report.

Board member Crump Attended the Annual County Veterans Service Officer Training in Sacramento. Visited the VFW Hall and meet with John Lowe.

Board member Gaze spoke: Cal-Vet Farm & Home Loan Program contract with Marshall and Swift Company. The disaster renewed and the premium increased. Interest rates have not changed 4.94% 5.5% for the highest. The average loan is higher. Maximum loan limit increased to \$359,650. New law allows Cal-Vet to loan on cooperative housing. HR1742 Bill trying to get reintroduced.

POLICY & PROCEDURE SELECT COMMITTEE CONSENT ITEMS

17. Approve the deletion of policies recommended by Select Committee Policy & Procedure.

RECOMMENDATION

Delete the following policies from the CVB Policy Book.

1. Policy B-5 Fire & Hazard Insurance/ Guaranteed Replacement Cost
2. Policy B-8 To Allow Interest Rate Changes to Cal-Vet loans
3. Policy E-1 POW advisory committee

Board member moved to approve the recommendation. Board member Crump seconded.

Chairman Sinopoli withdrew the motion based on items not stated on Agenda, postponed until next board meeting. Seconded by Crump.

Chairman declared the motion failed.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON SELECT COMMITTEE

Board member Leo Burke not present. Member Burke requested report be given by Advisory member Jackson.

Advisory member Jackson reported on proposed legislation (spot bill). Discussion on proposed legislation by:

Bill Manes, VFW spoke

John Lowe, VFW spoke

Board member Chong spoke

Bruce Thiesen spoke

Jack Climer spoke

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke

Charlie Waters MCL spoke

Ingram Slippery American Legion

PUBLIC COMMENTS 3-MINUTE LIMIT

Dr. David Salopek spoke

John Lowe VFW spoke

Jack Climer spoke

Chuck Parnell VFW spoke

Secretary Thomas Johnson spoke

Deputy Secretary Robert Glazier spoke

Charlie Waters MCL spoke

Board member Crump spoke

Board member Crump motioned to support Dr. Salopek comments to protect the American Flag and that it should returned to its proper place and to be visible at all times in the Lincoln Theatre. Board member Chong seconded. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Board members Crump, Chong, Gaze.

NOES: Board member Sinopoli

ABSENT: Board member Burke and Jackson

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Bill Manes VFW recommended the board look into the future needs of the veteran's cemetery's SB 480 Senator Denham, AB 922 Assemblymember Salinas.

ADJOURNED at 1:25 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

All meetings take place on Friday unless notified.

Next board meeting May 20 Barstow, Barstow Veterans Home

Yearly schedule is posted on web site: www.cdva.ca.gov/board

CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

- These minutes are posted to the California Department of Veterans Affairs on-line website at www.cdva.ca.gov/board